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Year 11 ATAR Psychology

In 1968, protests over the Vietnam war took place in Chicago, USA. These protests were later described as a ‘police riot’, as police were ordered to be brutal with protesters to discourage future protests. Many policemen believed that the protesters were anti-American, long-haired, drug-taking hippies who do not contribute to society and were causing chaos on their streets. During the riot, police wearing gas masks began to remove their name tags and beat the 8,000-10,000 people with nightsticks, smashing people through plate-glass windows, and firing tear-gas canisters. As a result of this experience, many protesters felt fear and anger towards the police, believing all police officers were cruel and calling any police officer a ‘pig’ whenever they saw one.

* Deindividuation – gas masks, no name badges
* Conformity and Obedience – Police abiding by leadership instruction and conformity to behavior/norms of the group.
* Causes of prejudice – direct experience, inter-group conflict, scapegoating.
* How to reduce prejudice between protesters and police.
* Attitude formation – Feeling = fear/anger. Action = calling them ‘pigs’. Cognitive – all officers were cruel. Strong negative attitude.
* Refer to psychological research. (Tajfel, Sherif, Milgram or Asch)